

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, IN, CE

SUBJECT: INDIAN CENSORSHIP AND U.S. JORNALISTS

1. WASHINGTON POST JULY 10 CARRIES STORY BY TOM TAMARKIN, CHICAGO DAILY NEWS, THAT U.S. EMBASSY IS URGING AMERICAN JOURNALISTS TO COMPLY WITH INDIAN CENSORSHIP RULES AS TO ACT OTHERWISE WOULD COMPLICATE INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS. WE ASSUME THAT THIS REPORT IS INACCURATE AND PREPARED Q AND A TO THAT EFFECT FOR USE AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING ALTHOUGH IT TURNED OUT THAT ISSUE WAS NOT RAISED. GUIDANCE FOR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN FOLLOWS BELOW. OUR POLICY IS THAT IT IS UP TO NEWSMEN TO DECIDE WHETHER THEY COMPLY WITH CENSORSHIP RULES AND THAT WE URGE NEITHER COMPLIANCE NOR DISREGARD OF THEM.

2. QUOTE: QUESTION: WHAT IS THERE TO THE STORY IN THIS MORNING'S WASHINGTON POST THAT THE EMBASSY IS ADVISING CORRESPONDENTS TO COMPLY WITH INDIAN CENSORSHIP?
ANSWER: AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE PUBLICLY STATED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS OPPOSED TO ANY ABRIDGEMENT OF THE FREE-
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DOM OF THE PRESS. WE HAVE RECEIVED NOTHING FROM THE EMBASSY INDICATING THAT THEY HAVE GIVEN JOURNALISTS ADVICE ON CENSORSHIP REGULATIONS. THERE IS NO BASIS TO THIS STORY THAT I AM AWARE OF. END QUOTE.

3. WE DID, HOWEVER, USE GUIDANCE TO RESPOND TO SENATE
FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE STAFFER WHO ASKED THAT WE
CONFIRM THIS WITH EMBASSY, WHICH WE SAID WE WOULD DO. INGERSOLL

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